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THE 1949 SCIENTIFIC AND RESEARCH PROGRAM  
OF THE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The 1949 scientific and research program of the Academy of Sciences testifies to the steady growth of Soviet science. It reflects its determination to lead the ideological struggle against reactionary foreign bourgeois science and give practical assistance to the national economy by solving the most important problems concerning the establishment of the material basis of Communism.

That is why problems of philosophy and methodology of science occupy a considerable part of the work program for the Academy in 1949. The program envisages the creation of a large collective work "The History of Philosophy," which will be prepared by the Institute of Philosophy and other associated institutes of the Academy of Sciences USSR, with the Georgian, Azerbaijanian, Uzbekistan, Armenian, and Ukrainian Academies of Science contributing. This 1,600-page work must be finished in 1949.

A large part of the program for the division of social sciences is dedicated to unveiling the covert and overt manifestations of neofacism in Western European and American science. This study will show the grasping tendencies of American imperialism.

The philosophical theme, connected with the struggle on the ideological front, is also to be projected into the division of physical sciences (exposing the contemporary idealistic outlook in foreign physics), into the division of astronomy (criticism of the antiscientific conception of the finiteness of the universe, and into the division of biological sciences (analysis of the reactionary nature of Weismannism-Morganism)

The serious development of methodological problems, which insures the purity of Soviet science, is designated for geography, geology, paleontology, chemistry, and other sciences.

This attention to ideological and methodological problems distinguishes the 1949 plan for the Academy of Sciences from those of other years.

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The second essential characteristic of the 1949 plan is the transition to grouping -- the concentration of the scientific forces of several divisions and institutes in work on broad problems of great national importance in order to develop them more rapidly and thoroughly.

The following problems are among those which will be studied intensively in the 1949 plan: theory of the structure of matter (the efforts of the division of physical-mathematical sciences, the division of chemical sciences and the division of geological-geographical sciences will be combined here); problems of biologically and synthetically derived proteins, vitamins, and antibiotics (the attention of the institutes of the division of biological and chemical sciences will be devoted to these); a group of problems, which may be united under the general heading "oil and its refining" (developed by institutes of the divisions of technical, geological-geographical and chemical sciences in close cooperation with the Azerbaydzhan and Georgian Academies of Sciences and Affiliates and bases of the Academy of Sciences USSR).

Work on complex problems concerning "Scientific Principles for Obtaining Higher Harvest Yields," will receive special attention. This problem will be solved by the efforts of the divisions of biological and geological sciences, the Council for the Study of Productive Forces, and also the affiliates and bases of the Academy of Sciences USSR. In many broad problems the Academy of Sciences envisages collaboration with the Academies of Sciences of the united republics. For example, problems of irrigated agriculture in the Amu-Dar'ya, Syr-Dar'ya, Kura, and Araks basins will be studied jointly with the Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Azerbaydzhan, Armenian and Georgian Academies of Sciences.

For the first time, collaboration of institutions of the divisions of social sciences with institutes working on problems of natural science is planned. An example of such collaboration is the preparation of an extensive monograph, "The History of Domestic Agriculture," which will utilize the efforts of the division of history and philosophy and the division of biological science under the leadership of Academicians B. D. Grekov and T. D. Lysenko. This monograph will be based on new data in archeology, history, ethnography, and agrobiology and is designed to expose the untruthful representations of bourgeois historians concerning the late development of agriculture in our country and to show the blossoming of Soviet agricultural science. "The History of the Struggle with Weismanism" is to be completed by the united institutes and the All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V. I. Lenin.

An important characteristic of the plan for 1949 is the fact that 1949 is the fourth year of the postwar Stalin Five-Year Plan. This means that the development of the majority of the problems and those that figure in the plan for the Academy must either be completed or approaching completion this year; that is, they must have been brought up to the point where the results obtained may be introduced into the operational practice of the professional institutes or directly into the national economy -- industry, agriculture, or transportation.

Under these problems, the following may be included: problems of polymers and plastic masses; technology; organic synthesis; "Scientific Principles of Animal Husbandry," which emerges as a major problem in the plan for the division of biological sciences for the first time in 1949; the requirements of the fishing and foodstuff industries; and, finally, the automatization and mechanization of productive processes, transportation, mining, and other branches of the national economy.

The great number of problems which will be concluded in 1949 await experimental checking and introduction into the national economy. They necessitate certain organizational changes in the activity of the Academy of Sciences USSR, a substantial intensification and improvement of the organizational functions with regard to leadership in introducing the finished scientific research work. Briefly, these are the basic characteristics of the 1949 plan for the Academy of Sciences USSR.

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What are the most important characteristics of scientific-research work for the division of the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1949?

In the physical-mathematical sciences, the notes such characteristic 1949 problems as problems of the atomic nucleus, cosmic rays, optical methods of analysis, and development of methods for weather and erosion forecasting.

In the chemical sciences, besides the problems of organic synthesis previously mentioned, an increasing amount of attention is to be given to work on the theory of the oxidizing reaction, the theory of the structure of organic compounds which has evoked many disputes, and problems of catalysis, peroxides, combustion, and explosions. A special place in the 1949 plan is reserved for a large group of subjects connected with the investigation of the chemical composition of substances by contemporary physical and physical-chemical methods for the purpose of perceiving the chemical with small volumes of the substances.

In the geological-geographical sciences, a great number of important works has been set forth. In particular, the Geological Institute is completing a large, collective work in composing the tectonic map of the Union on a scale of 1:5,000,000. The Soil Institute is slated to put out many new sheets of the soil map on a scale of 1:1,000,000 (the State Soil Map). The Institute of Geography is preparing a number of works on the geography of the Union. Important monographs on mineralogy and hydrogeology are also being prepared.

The plan for the division of biological sciences, which underwent an important, far-reaching reorganization on the basis of decisions of the July-August Session of the VASKHNIL (All-Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences named Lenin) and the extended session of the Presidium of the Academy of Science USSR, is based chiefly on the principles of creative Soviet Darwinism, the studies of Michurin and Lysenko.

Its 1949 program is really fitted to the needs of socialist agriculture, public health, the foodstuff industry, and the fishing economy of the Union. It is particularly concerned with the problem of heredity and that of high, stable harvest yields. A number of new subjects are dedicated to grass mixtures in irrigated and nonirrigated agriculture. A whole group of investigations are directed toward the study of the lumber-growing properties of soils and landscapes in connection with the implementation of important works on creating a State Forest Zone. In the region of the State Forest Zone, extensive investigations guided by the division of biological sciences will be conducted. Methods and principles for the rapid and effective implementation of these far-reaching tasks were designated by the historic decision of the TsK VKP(b) and the Soviet government in "The Plan for Protective Reforestation, Introduction of Crop Rotation, and Construction of Ponds and Reservoirs for Securing High and Stable Harvests in Steppe and Wooded-Steppe Rayons of European USSR." Collaboration with the Academy of Sciences Kazakh SSR is planned in this work, since the eastern reforestation zones are located principally in the territory of western Kazakhstan. These great investigations will undoubtedly be of great help in obtaining important theoretical and practical results in the biological, geographical, and soil sciences.

In the technical sciences, the 1949 plan is likewise linked with demands of the national economy, notably, work on the automatization of calculations, machine mathematics. Investigations in ceramic metallurgy will receive particular development. During 1949, the development of a great number of new important constructions, devices, and instruments will be completed. The division for cost accounting of important productive processes will obtain important conclusions of a practical nature. This essentially distinguishes the 1949 plan from the plans of other years.

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In the division of historical and philosophical sciences in 1949, very important collective works will be undertaken, and some will be completed. Among them are the fundamental work, "The History of Russian Culture," the 10-volume "History of the USSR," and "The History of Moscow." Work will be continued on compiling the collective monograph on the gradual transition from socialism to Communism and the monograph "Dialectical Materialism," which will be completed in 1950. In connection with the lack of general works on the history of peoples' democracies, books will be published on the history of Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Poland.

In the division of economics and law, particular attention is being paid to composing a systematic course in the political economy of socialism, to investigation of a number of problems concerning the economics of socialist industry, transportation, and agriculture from the standpoint of solving the basic economic problems of the USSR, and to development of problems of economics, accounting, price formation, and wages as economic levers in raising socialist production. Work continues on the problem "The Crisis of Capitalism." One of the volumes which will be completed this year is a monograph, "The Soviet State."

The plan for the division of literature and languages is very diversified and extensive. It includes two broad important problems. The first problem is connected with the development of problems of the Russian language, encompassing a whole range of subjects and works on composing dictionaries and grammars of various types, and the second concerns a group of exceedingly interesting investigations based on the comparative grammar of the languages of the peoples of the USSR. It is obvious that work on philology occupies an important place in the plan for the division of literature and languages.

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